

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 SSM-03 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 EB-07

/098 W

----- 086064

R 230810Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3785

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMCONSUL DHAHHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, EG

SUBJECT: SADAT ARRIVAL IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: CAIRO 2233

1. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT ARRIVED IN RIYADH THE AFTERNOON
OF FEBRUARY 21 ON A SIX-DAY STATE VISIT TO THE KINGDOM.

SADAT AND HIS PARTY WERE ACCORDED AN ESPECIALLY WARM, ELA-
BORATE RECEPTION AT THE AIRPORT BY KING KHALED, CROWN PRINCE
FAHD, NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER PRINCE ABDULLAH AND OTHER
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SAUDI NOTABLES. CROWDS ALONG THE FLAG-BEDECKED CAVALCADE

ROUTE WERE IN TYPICAL SAUDI FASHION, MODERATE IN SIZE AND FRIENDLY BUT RESTRAINED. TOMORROW SADAT AND PARTY WILL LEAVE WITH THEIR HOSTS FOR A 2 1/2 DAY SOJOURN IN THE DESERT, A SIGNAL MARK OF HONOR TO THE VISITING EGYPTIAN PARTY, BUT ONE WE UNDERSTAND FAILED TO SPARK ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE MORE CITIFIED MEMBERS OF SADAT'S ENTOURAGE.

2. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE VISIT HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE, INCLUDING A LENGTHY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SADAT FRONT PAGED IN "UKAZ", AND TV CLIPS OF THE 1973 WAR LACED WITH LAVISH PRAISE FOR SADAT'S STRATEGIC GENIUS. MEDIA STRESSES COORDINATION OF SAHARA QUESTION AND RECONCILIATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT AS MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION ON THE AGENDA. ONE MAGAZINE ARTICLE MENTIONED THE "COLLAPSE OF US STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH" AS MAJOR POINT OF DISCUSSION. THE SUBJECT OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN ALLUDED TO BY REPRINTING ARICLES FROM THE EGYPTIAN PRESS PRAISING THE GENEROSITY OF PAST SAUDI ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

3. THE NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MANAGED TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TO KING KHALED, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM SIX WEEKS IN THE DESERT, ONLY HOURS BEFORE SADAT'S ARRIVAL-- AND MINUTES AFTER THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTED HIS. HORAN

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Message Attributes

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